

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 187832  
ORIGIN SS-15

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 187832

EXDIS FROM UNA

FOLLOWING REPEATED CAIRO 17576 ACTION SECSTATE  
INFO LONDON JIDDA JUL 24.

QUOTE: C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 17576

EXDIS

DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PEPR EG SO ET

SUBJECT: SADAT COMMENTS ON AFRICAN SITUATION

1. IN MEETING WITH SADAT TODAY, I ASKED ABOUT HIS  
RECENT ATTENDANCE AT OAU SUMMIT IN KHARTOUM. SADAT  
SAID MEETING HAD BEEN USEFUL, BUT GAVE NO DETAILS.  
INSTEAD, HE IMMEDIATELY FOCUSED ON HIS CONCERN ABOUT  
RECENT AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS.

2. THE SITUATION IN AFRICA, SADAT ASSERTED WITH GREAT  
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EARNESTNESS, "IS VERY ALARMING FOR YOUR FRIENDS THERE".  
PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE'S POSITION IS ESPECIALLY DIFFICULT.  
THE ETHIOPIANS ARE BOMBING SOMALI BORDER VILLAGES. AS  
WE KNEW, SADAT IS SENDING GENERAL GAMASY TO SOMALIA TO  
STUDY THE SITUATION. SOME EGYPTIAN MISSILE CREWS WILL  
ALSO BE SENT.

3. AT THE OAU SUMMIT, SOVIET AND CUBAN SUPPORTED AFRICAN LEADERS (UNNAMED) HAD "RAISED THEIR VOICES IN INPERTIN-  
ENT AND SELF-ASSURED MANNER". THEY HAD SOUGHT TO DOMINATE  
THE MODERATES. HAD MEETING NOT BEEN HELD IN KHARTOUM,  
A MODERATE STATE, THE RESULTS MIGHT HAVE BEEN EVEN WORSE.  
EGYPT AND OTHER MODERATE STATES DID THEIR BEST TO TONE  
DOWN THE RESOLUTIONS.

4. SADAT THEN RECALLED THAT HE HAD MET WITH NYERERE IN  
KHARTOUM. THE LATTER HAD PASSED THROUGH ADDIS ENROUTE  
TO KHARTOUM AND HAD DISCUSSED THE ERITREAN PROBLEM WITH  
MENGISTU. NYERERE HAD TOLD MENGISTU, THE CUBANS AND  
THE SOVIETS THAT ERITREA IS NOT THE OGADEN. NEITHER  
THE SOVIETS NOR THE CUBANS SHOULD BECOME INVOLVED  
MILITARILY. THE CUBANS HAD IMMEDIATELY AGREED, BUT THE  
SOVIETS HAD DELAYED REPLYING. NYERERE HAD THEN BEEN  
IN TOUCH WITH THE UNITED STATES, AFTER WHICH THE  
SOVIETS RESPONDED THAT THEY ALSO AGREE NO SOVIET IN-  
VOLVEMENT SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN ERITREA. NYERERE HAD  
PROPOSED TO MENGISTU A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT, ONE IN-  
VOLVING AUTONOMY IN THE ETHIOPIAN POLITICAL ENTITY.  
MENGISTU HAD EXPRESSED GREAT CONCERN OVER THE EGYPTIAN  
AND SUDANESE POSITIONS.

5. SADAT HAD AUTHORIZED NYERERE TO INFORM MENGISTU  
THAT GOE IS ALSO FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE ERITREAN  
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PROBLEM. THE PARTIES CAN MEET IN CAIRO, DAR ES SALAAM  
OR ANY OTHER PLACE TO WORK THIS OUT. NYERERE SHOULD  
INFORM MENGISTU THAT EGYPT PLANS TO SEND SOME MISSILE  
CREWS TO ASSIST IN THE SOMALI AIR DEFENSE EFFORT. THEIR  
PURPOSE IS NOT TO INVADE ETHIOPIA, BUT TO DEFEND THE  
SOMALI VILLAGES THAT THE ETHIOPIANS ARE BOMBING.

6. SADAT RECALLED THAT HE HAD AGREED WITH SIAD THAT  
SOMALIA WOULD ASSERT NO CLAIM TO THE OGADEN OR KENYA,  
BUT SIAD MUST BE ALLOWED TO SAVE HIS FACE. SADAT COULD  
NOT UNDERSTAND WHY, AS SIAD HAD TOLD HIM, WE ARE NOW  
DELAYING SENDING THE MILITARY SURVEY TEAM. "YOUR  
FRIENDS ARE SUFFERING", SADAT SAID. "YOU DO NOTHING  
AND THE SOVIETS PROVIDE THEIR FRIENDS WITH MASSIVE ARMS."

7. I DISPUTED HIS DESCRIPTION. ALLUDING TO SOMALIA,  
I ASSURED SADAT THAT WE WANT TO HELP SIAD AND HAVE  
COMMITTED OURSELVES SO DO SO. IT BECOMES DIFFICULT FOR  
US, HOWEVER, WHEN WE DISCOVER THAT SIAD CONTINUES  
ACTIVELY TO AID THE OGADEN INSURGENTS. PERHAPS IF SIAD  
STOPPED THESE ACTIVITIES, WHICH RUN COUNTER TO THE  
COMMITMENTS THAT HE HAD MADE TO US, THE ETHIOPIAN

BOMBING ATTACKS ON THE SOMALI BORDER VILLAGES WOULD  
CEASE. AS SADAT DOUBTLESS KNEW, BOTH KENYA AND ETHIOPIA  
CONTINUE TO BE CONCERNED ABOUT SIAD'S INTENTIONS.

8. SADAT DISMISSED THIS ESTIMATE. SIAD, HE INSISTED,  
SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHANCE TO SAVE HIS FACE. OTHERWISE  
HE -ILL BE OVERTHROWN. SIAD CANNOT IMMEDIATELY STOP  
HIS ASSISTANCE TO THE OGADEN INSURGENTS, WHO ARE  
ETHNIC SOMALI KINSMEN. WERE HE TO DO SO, HE WOULD  
BE OVERTHROWN. SIAD CAN GRADUALLY PHASE OUT HIS HELP  
TO THE OGADEN INSURGENTS, BUT CANNOT DO SO AT ONCE.

9. SADAT AGAIN MADE A STRONG APPEAL THAT USG GO  
THROUGH WITH ITS PROMISE OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO  
SOMALIA. THROUGH SUCH ACTIVE ASSISTANCE, HE ARGUED,  
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WE CAN MORE EFFECTIVELY INFLUENCE SIAD TO REDUCE AND  
EVENTUALLY CEASE SOMALI SUPPORT FOR THE OGADEN INSUR-  
GENTS. EILTS

UNQUOTE VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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